

# The Evening Times

NUMBER 1553.

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, JULY 20, 1900.

PRICE ONE CENT.

## OLD NEWS FROM PEKIN

### A Dubious Message From Conger Received Through Wu.

### BEARS THE DATE OF JULY 18

### May Have Been Filed Weeks Ago by the American Minister.

### MANY SUSPICIONS OF DUPLICITY

Represented to Be an Answer to Secretary Hay's Query, "Is All Well?" Forwarded Through the Chinese Minister on July 11—Circumstances, However, Indicate Trickery on the Part of Pekin Officials—Thought Possible by Many That the Diplomatic Service Code Was Captured When the Legations Were Destroyed and That It Has Been Made Use of in the Construction of What Purports to Be a Genuine Communication—Regarded as Peculiar That the Message Should Have Been in Cipher and the Signature in Plain English.

Wu Ting-fang, the Chinese Minister, called at the State Department at about 10 o'clock this morning and handed to Secretary Hay a message, written in the secret code of the diplomatic service and signed in plain English with the name, Conger. When translated, it read as follows:

"Pekin, July 18.  
"Secretary of State, Washington:  
"In British Legation under continuous shot and shell from Chinese troops. Quick relief only can prevent general massacre."  
"CONGRER."

This message is believed by the State Department officials to be an answer to the one sent to Mr. Conger by Secretary Hay on July 11, which the Chinese Minister agreed to forward to Pekin and have placed in Mr. Conger's hands, if alive, and to which he agreed to obtain a reply if possible. Mr. Hay's message simply asked the question:

"Is all well?"  
The first effect of the receipt of the message was a happy one. There were cheers in the corridors and offices of the great State, War, and Navy Building for several minutes, and then there was a sudden change to almost complete silence.

It seemed as if everybody had chanced to remember at one and the same time that the Chinese officials had sent out a great many conflicting reports in the past, and a suspicion that even this message might have been one of the illustrations of the adeptness of the Celestial in "ways that are dark and tricks that are vain," found whispered expression in the corridors that, a few minutes previously had resounded with joyous exclamations.

Opinions on the Message.  
Of course, everybody wanted to work at once on an analysis of the message, eager to prove, not that there was ground for suspicion, but to find a reasonable basis for hope that Mr. Conger and the other foreigners in Pekin were still alive and that they might yet be rescued.

But the deeper the probe of analysis was sent the stronger suspicion grew, until, at last, there resulted a condition of disbelieving doubt that was all the more heart-rending, because of the revulsion from the brief period of joyous hope.

The first thing that seemed to furnish evidence of possible deception was the fact that Mr. Conger's name, as signed to the message, was written in plain English, whereas the text was in the usual cipher code. It was pointed out that it is customary for diplomats in using the code to sign their names also in cipher.

The reason for this is obvious. If a message of great importance were plainly directed to a high official of a Government and signed equally plainly by another official of that Government, it would be apparent to any person under whose observation it might come, that it was a communication that might better be suppressed as possibly menacing to the interests of, perhaps, an unfriendly power.

The edict issued by the Tsung-li-Yamen, it was recalled, admitted the assassination of Baron von Ketteler several weeks ago, at which time also the legations were being besieged and bombarded.

In view of these conditions, it was argued by many that when the American Legation in Pekin was destroyed it was possible for the Chinese officials to obtain possession of Mr. Conger's cipher code, which could have been used, it was said, in sending out what might purport to be messages from him. With a cipher signature, no one could know who it was from, and, therefore, it would have no more significance than thousands of other communications passing through the cables and land lines.

Then it was pointed out that the legations had been reported to have been destroyed and all foreigners massacred at various times since the last previous war.

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was received from Mr. Conger on June 12, some of which reports had been confirmed, in part at least, by apparently authentic Chinese sources.

Those who shared this view said that if Mr. Conger himself had written the message he would naturally have used a code signature.

Still Another Theory.  
One of the theories most generally accepted as at least reasonable was that Mr. Conger had really sent the message, properly signed, but that it was dated originally two or even three weeks ago, since which time the legations had probably been destroyed and the foreigners butchered, just as recent reports have said they had been.

The belief was expressed by not a few that when Wu Ting-fang forwarded Secretary Hay's message to Pekin, with an urgent personal request that an answer from Mr. Conger be obtained and its transmission expedited, the Chinese officials selected a message written by Mr. Conger weeks ago, changed the date to July 18, wrote the signature in English to make themselves sure of its being really signed by the American Minister, and sent it along as an answer to Secretary Hay.

The fact that it took many days to get the Secretary's message to Pekin, even with Minister Wu's accompanying personal appeal for haste, and less than forty-eight hours to transmit the reply from Pekin is pointed out as another reason for suspicion.

Consistency of Trickery.

Much significance is attached by those officials who give expression to their suspicions, to the consistency of all the reports that have come from Chinese sources. According to these reports the legations were in great peril and the foreigners in danger of massacre on June 29. Then they were surrounded and being bombarded with heavy guns on July 5 and were in even more imminent danger of massacre. On July 6 the report was that the foreigners were short of ammunition and provisions and would probably all be dead within forty-eight hours.

The report for July 7 was that the legations were still holding out, but, unless relieved at once were certainly doomed. So it has gone on until today comes the report over Mr. Conger's signature that only quick relief can prevent a general massacre.

The belief is widespread that the consistency of all these reports is of itself an indication of treachery and is designed to prepare the way for the horrible story of slaughter that must inevitably be revealed to the world finally.

Another object, many believe, is to gain delay to enable the perpetrators to prepare to defend themselves against the terrible vengeance of the powers that will follow a complete revelation of the truth.

The message from Consul General Fowler, at Shanghai, informing Secretary Hay that the Shanghai papers of the 16th published the announcement of the massacre of the foreigners in Pekin, is regarded as further evidence of duplicity, for the reason that if the massacre occurred prior to the 16th, Mr. Conger could not, of course, have sent a message on the 18th.

And, Even if True.

It is acknowledged at the State Department that Mr. Conger's message, even if it is genuine, does not improve the situation at all, but confirms the reports of the desperate straits of the besieged party in the British Legation. The very wording of the message shows that the party is nearly ready to give up the struggle, and aside from the hope that Minister Conger has not yet been massacred, the department officials realize that there must be immediate action and an immediate expedition to Pekin. Secretaries Hay, Root, and Long, held a conference on the message and discussed the methods to be adopted for an immediate expedition. Some speedy action will be agreed upon with the allied powers so that there will be no further delay in pressing on to the capital.

It was suggested by several minor officials that there was a probability of the Chinese having secured Mr. Conger's code book, and thus, since the cipher message received today, Secretary Hay denies that this could have occurred, as even in the event of the Chinese Government having a dozen code books they would be useless to one not possessing the key, which is retained mentally, to avoid all danger. The key is changed every now and then, and only one knowing the key and its uses could, even after long study, manage to get a message out. That this message is clear and without an error is regarded as being proof of its being sent by Mr. Conger.

Sent to the President.

The contents of the message were wired to the President shortly after his arrival at Canton and an answer is expected today. The words "quick relief can only prevent massacre," have aroused the department officials and it is believed that any further delay means the death of both Mr. Conger and those with him. It was intimated at the State Department today that word had been received from some source that the Imperial Government had secretly been feeding the inmates of the British

350 To Mt. Vernon and Return 350  
And, to Alexandria and return, after 7 p. m. Electric trains from 12:30 and 2 a. m.

65 To the Seashore and Return 85  
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Legation so that they could hold out. This was done by throwing sacks of rice over the city wall and into the legation enclosure.

A MESSAGE FROM FOWLER.

Chinese Papers Reported the Pekin Massacre on July 16.

Just previous to the receipt of the Conger message, Secretary Hay received the following from Consul Fowler, at Chefoo:

"Chefoo, July 19.

"Secretary Hay, Washington:  
"The Shanghai papers of the 16th stated that all foreigners in Pekin had been slaughtered. I wired the Governor of Shantung for the truth of the matter.

"He replies that his courier left Pekin on the 11th and that all the ministers were alive. Pekin (the east city), he states, had been broken into with intent to kill rebels.

"FOWLER."

MR. HAY CONFIDENT.

Believes the Message Was Really Sent by Mr. Conger.

Secretary Hay is convinced that the message handed him today by the Chinese Minister came from Mr. Conger, and that view is general in the State Department, where the intricacies of the code are too well known to lead the officials to believe that the message was forged. Neither Mr. Hay nor Mr. Wu knew at the time that the message was handed to the Secretary that it was genuine, for neither could translate the cipher symbols in which it was written.

Mr. Hay sent the despatch immediately to one of the cipher experts of the department, and in a remarkably short space of time the copy was in the Secretary's hands. The expert said that the symbols translated perfectly, leaving no doubt in his mind as to the genuineness of the message. Naturally Mr. Hay was elated.

He was anxious to have the good news sent broadcast and the first thing he did was to dictate to his private secretary a statement showing how the message was received. Then he went to the telephone and dictated to the White House a message to be telegraphed to the President containing the gratifying tidings.

It was a hot day, but Mr. Hay moved with alacrity from the telephone box to the office of Secretary Root, which is in the same building. Mr. Hay and Mr. Root congratulated each other over the fact that Mr. Conger and presumably the other foreigners were alive on the date of the message.

To The Times reporter Secretary Hay said that he could not doubt the genuineness of the telegram from Mr. Conger. While preferring that the statement given by him to the press should embrace all he cared to say officially, Mr. Hay spoke in such a way as to leave no room for suspicion that he believed the message to be other than absolutely authentic.

One of the cipher experts of the State Department said to the reporter that it would have been impossible for anybody in Pekin outside of Minister Conger and the officials of his legation to have written the message.

Even had the cipher book of the American Legation been in the possession of Chinese officials they could not have answered Secretary Hay's telegram of inquiry to Mr. Conger without having first devoted considerable time to the study of the intricate and arbitrary code which the American Diplomatic Service uses.

This comparatively short period within which the Secretary's message had been answered from Pekin appears to dispose of suspicion that Chinese officials obtained possession of Mr. Conger's code book and had mastered its mysteries sufficiently to enable them to write a correct answer in cipher to the Secretary's despatch.

Against this there remains only the possibility that the Minister's cipher book was taken from the American Legation some time ago and has since been studied carefully by Chinese.

The contents of Mr. Conger's message were transmitted to every American Ambassador and Minister in Europe and the Minister in Japan with instructions to lay the despatch before the Governments to which they are accredited. It is probable that this Government will on the basis of Mr. Conger's advice urge the powers to order their troops in China to advance on Pekin without further delay.

MR. WU GRATIFIED.

Happy at Having Received the Conger Message.

Wu Ting-fang was in a state of great satisfaction when he returned to the Chinese Legation after leaving the Conger message with Secretary Hay. The Minister has been insistent from the first that Minister Conger was safe. He said to a reporter for The Times:

"To show Secretary Hay my message as it originally came to me and was translated here at the legation, I took with me my code, so that the Secretary of State could have no doubt as to what my message was. Of course I could not know until the State Department had translated the message from Minister Conger by its own cipher what his message contained, but I wanted to assure Secretary Hay of

NEW YORK, July 20.—Hugh W. Adams, trading under the name of Hugh W. Adams & Co., wholesale dealer in pig iron, at 14 Beekman Street, today assigned for the benefit of creditors, to William P. McDonough.

C. E. Interstate Gaiting  
at Memorial Lake Park, Md., from July 23 to 26. Permitted speakers have been secured, and interesting programme arranged. No endeavor can afford to miss this gathering. Rate via B. & O. R. R. \$2.00 for the round trip.

\$3.50 Special Saturday Trip, \$3.50  
To "Old Point," Norfolk, Virginia Beach, and Ocean View, via Norfolk and Washington steamer, Saturday, 6:30 p. m. Round trip tickets to Port Monroe and Norfolk, good to return Sunday night, \$3.50. For stationer phone 739. Schedule Page 7.

Don't Forget the Bay Shore Limited.  
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the source of my message asking me to forward the Conger message to him.

"My message came by way of the Shanghai Tsoai, and the telegraph company has been asked to repeat it, so that one or two obscure or omitted words may be verified.

"These words are not important. The fact that the message from Minister Conger came in the State Department cipher is the main thing. Now we know that he was alive July 18. We know that he was not safe by any means, but alive, yes. The thing now is to go to the rescue.

"I am much gratified to have been able to get this reply so soon to Secretary Hay's cipher message sent a week ago to Minister Conger. When the edict was received a week ago Wednesday Secretary Hay asked me if I was willing to try to get a message through to Minister Conger. I replied that I would do everything in my power to do so. But I said to the Secretary that there would be no use perhaps in my sending a message to the American Minister. When it reached him he would likely ask 'Who are you?' 'Who is he?' He might have thought that I was an agent of the Boxers and made no reply."

"So I suggested that the safe way would be for me to forward a State Department cipher message which Minister Conger would know came direct from his Government, and could not come from any one else. This I did for Secretary Hay, and the whole circle is complete, showing the course the message took from your Secretary of State through me to Pekin and to your Minister and the course his message took in reaching Secretary Hay.

"Those who would impeach all of the Chinese on account of the wrongdoing of some of them cannot now, it seems to me, have any doubt that I have done my best and that I am anxious to serve your Government to the utmost of my ability during these unfortunate troubles in China.

"Some people would impeach that grand old man, Li Hung Chang, who has left Canton where he was perfectly safe and risked his life in his old age by proceeding to Pekin to do what he can to save the foreigners there. He is a progressive man and better known by the civilized world than any other Chinaman, yet when trouble comes some people doubt him.

"I have asked that judgment be withheld until we could get definite information as to the attitude of the leaders of the recognized Chinese Government. I think this message today will be an object lesson to those people in Europe and in this country who have thought evil of the real Chinese authorities.

"This Government has treated me with the highest consideration. I don't believe that the German Government has forbidden my colleague sending cipher messages because I received one from him three days ago.

"See how such action would have affected me had your Government taken such a step?

"It would have prevented my sending through messages to keep in touch with affairs so far as I have been able, and no course would have been open for me to have forwarded Secretary Hay's message. I deeply appreciate the consideration that has been shown me by the State Department and by the United States Government."

MONEY FOR CHINA CAMPAIGN.

Treasury Officers Say \$50,000,000 Is Available.

No difficulty is anticipated by Treasury officials in supplying all the demands of the Government for money in carrying forward the China campaign. The available cash balance in the Treasury last night was over \$150,000,000, exclusive of the reserve and the trust funds which amount altogether to \$574,723,179.

The cash balance of \$150,000,000 represents a surplus of receipts over expenditures, and under normal conditions would be steadily increased, as the daily income of the Government is ahead of its usual expenses.

Out of this reserve the Treasury officials say they could easily spare \$50,000,000 for the conduct of the Chinese war. This amount, in connection with the appropriation, it is believed, would be ample for carrying forward the campaign until Congress meets in December.

All of the war appropriations were most liberal and in case of necessity the funds set aside for the whole of the twelve months ending July 1, 1901, could be spent in the five months before Congress meets, it is argued by the authorities.

The officials have compiled a statement showing the total cost of the Spanish war up to date. It reaches \$385,000,000, including the Philippine operations. Of that sum \$56,000,000 was spent in March, April, May, and June of 1898; the sum of \$230,000,000 was required for the operations from July 1, 1898, to July 1, 1899, and \$109,000,000 has been spent since the last date.

Final Instructions for Mr. Rockhill.

W. W. Rockhill, Chief of the Bureau of American Republics, who has been appointed Special Envoy to China, left early this morning for Connecticut. He will return next week to receive final instructions before proceeding to China.

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## CANTON IN GREAT PERIL

### Outrages by Chinese Pirates Follow Viceroy Li's Departure.

River Thieves Seize a Hongkong Passenger Launch and Imprison the People on Board—General Outbreak Expected at Any Moment. Celestial Freebooters Rob a Vessel at Kamehuk—French Gunboats Land Soldiers to Protect Chamien. Russia in an Awkward Position Because of Developments in Manchuria—Belief That the Czar Will Be Compelled to Declare War.

LONDON, July 20.—The situation at Canton is becoming serious and a general outbreak is likely to occur at any time.

A despatch to the Central News from Hongkong dated July 19, 7:25 p. m., says: "The riotous spirit which it was predicted would show itself in Canton on Viceroy Li Hung Chang's departure, has already started. Pirates are infesting the river, and yesterday they seized a Hongkong passenger launch and forced the passengers, who were mostly Chinese girls, to go aboard the pirate junk. Then they stripped the launch and proceeded to Canton."

"Pirates at Kamehuk robbed the passengers of another launch of \$13,000."

"Two French gunboats have landed 300 Annamese soldiers to protect Chamien, a suburb of Canton."

Quarrel Over Leadership.

There is no prospect of an immediate advance on Pekin for the rescue of foreigners from the besieging Chinese. The question of who shall be in supreme command of the allied expedition continues to agitate the powers and is likely at any time to lead to differences that will seriously hinder the international movement.

According to a despatch from Vienna, the "Neue Freie Presse" says Russia has brought up the question of the leadership of the force of the allies that will march on the Chinese capital. It is said that England objects to the leadership of either the Russian or French, and the powers will not accept Japan. Under these circumstances it is believed that a German will be selected to command the allied forces.

Russia's Awkward Position.

A despatch from Berlin indicates that the trouble with the Chinese in Manchuria has placed Russia in an embarrassing position. The "Cologne Gazette" has received advice from St. Petersburg which declares that Russia's predicament arises from the impossibility of concentrating a sufficient number of troops to guard the 5,000 miles of territory which constitutes the Russo-Chinese frontier. The despatches add that, in consequence of this embarrassment, political circles will be compelled to abandon the position that Russia is not going to war with China and that the Czar's army must at once prepare for the conflict. Nobody in St. Petersburg, the correspondent says, thought a few weeks ago that all parties would unite in demanding that the attack on Blagovestchenko should be punished by the destruction of all the frontier villages in the Amur district.

Tientsin's Alarming Silence.

The continued silence of Tientsin alarms England and is the cause of a great deal of pessimistic speculation affecting the matter of the safety of the foreigners in that city. There are well-grounded fears that the Chinese forces, increased by thousands of fanatics from the north, have swept in at a critical period and penned the allied troops in the native fortifications, which they captured after such a costly battle.

The utter impossibility of relieving Pekin, if that is anyone left there to be rescued, before aid is sent to Tientsin, is readily apparent. The allies at Taku seem to be doing practically nothing in the way of organizing a relief expedition, and the impression here is growing that serious differences have arisen between the officials of various nations, causing a grievous delay in the forward movement which ought to have been made some time ago.

The China Island Mission in London has received reassuring cable despatches in regard to the Chungking and Kinkiang missions. Everything was quiet at these places yesterday—the 19th.

EXPORTING WAR SUPPLIES.

Mr. Balfour Says There Is No Law to Prevent It.

LONDON, July 20.—In the House of Commons today Mr. Balfour, the Government leader, said it was impossible in the present state of the law to prevent the exportation of munitions of war to China.

A bill giving the Government that power however, would, he said, be introduced in the House of Lords today.

The Queen Leaves Windsor.

LONDON, July 20.—The Queen left Windsor for Osborne this morning. In consequence of the excessive heat, Her Majesty wore a white dress and white hat instead of the black dress and hat in which she has invariably appeared since the death of the Prince Consort.

\$1.25 To Baltimore and Return \$1.25  
via Pennsylvania Railroad.

Tickets on sale Saturday and Sunday, July 21 and 22, good to return until Monday, July 23. All trains except Congressional Limited.

B. & O. Week-End Seashore Excursions.

All season. Tickets good going on all trains Fridays and Saturdays, valid for return until Tuesday following. \$5.00 for the round-trip to Atlantic City, Cape May, Ocean City, and Sea Isle City.

Catch the 5 p. m. Bay Shore Limited.

Magic, dancing, bathing, Chesapeake Beach.

Laurel has dropped at the Friendly Center, and sound, best boards, \$1.50, at 6th and N. Y. ave.

## A DESPATCH FROM REMEY.

He Receives a Duplicate of the Alleged Message From Conger.

Secretary Long late this afternoon received a despatch from Admiral Remy confirming the despatch received from Minister Conger through Minister Wu, Admiral Remy's despatch, which is under date of July 20, and is from Chefoo, is as follows:

"Conger has wired me that he is in the British Legation under shot and shell, and unless relief is sent at once he will be massacred. I urge immediate relief be sent. REMEY."

Before Admiral Remy's despatch had been received Secretary Long sent the following cable gram to the commander of the naval forces in Chinese waters:

"Washington, July 20.

"Remy, Chefoo:

"Conger telegraphs he is in British Legation under fire from Chinese troops and that quick relief only can prevent general massacre. Use and urge every possible endeavor for relief.

"LONG."

A MILITARY CONFERENCE.

Miles Discusses the Chinese Situation With Officials.

General Miles had a conference with departmental officials this afternoon over the military situation in China with regard to the chances for the relief of the foreigners at Pekin at an early date.

It is General Miles' opinion that with a sufficient force the allies should be able to reach Pekin by forced marches in two and a half days. This, however, is on the supposition that there would be no considerable opposition.

CHINA APPEALS TO FRANCE.

Emperor Asks Loubet to Mediate With the Powers.

PARIS, July 20.—Yu Keng, the Chinese Minister to France, has forwarded to M. Delcasse, the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, a telegram from the Emperor of China asking France to mediate between China and the powers.

The telegram, which was sent through the Governor of the Province of Shantung yesterday, makes no mention of the foreign ministers at Pekin.

On receipt of this message M. Delcasse sent word to the Chinese Minister that President Loubet's reply to the Emperor's message would be sent to the French Legation at Pekin, where the Chinese Imperial Government could obtain it. He would await news in reply to this before being certain of the safety of M. Pichon, the French Minister.

BRITISH CONSUL DEAD.

Reported to Have Been Stabbed at Beira by an American.

LONDON, July 20.—The War Office has received the following despatch from Lord Roberts:

"Fretoria, July 19.—Carrington reports that the British Consul at Beira, died yesterday of the wound he received on Monday."

A despatch from Lourenco Marques, of July 18, said that Mr. MacMaster, the British Consul at Beira, had been stabbed and that his assailant was an American who came from Mashonaland.

MUST PROTECT THE CHINESE.

Police Ordered to Use the Utmost Vigilance in Their Behalf.

In an order issued to the police force today, Major Sylvester says: "Referring to the recent order relative to the protection of the lives, limbs, and property of the Chinese in this jurisdiction, the Major and Superintendent directs the members of the force to do their utmost to afford these people the protection guaranteed them by law.

"It would be a serious reflection on our institution were cranks and persons who may be ill-disposed or vicious permitted to take advantage of or inflict injury upon these helpless residents."

WU NOT ALARMED.

Regards Threatening Anonymous Letter as the Work of a Crank.

The fact that Minister Wu yesterday received an anonymous letter warning him that he and his "damned Chinamen" had better get out of the District within the next forty-eight hours, did not disturb his sleep last night. In fact he laughed when spoken to about the letter this morning. The officials of the Chinese Legation regard the letter which was signed "The Society of Whitecaps," as the work of a crank or practical joker.

MOVEMENTS OF THE BRITISH.

General Hunter Reconnitering the Free States' Position.

LONDON, July 20.—Lord Roberts reports to the War Office under yesterday's date that General Methuen has occupied Hekepoort without opposition.

Gen. Ian Hamilton and Colonel Malton have continued their march north of the Delagoa Bay Railway, while General Hunter is reconnoitering the position of the Free States between Bethlehem and Ficksburg.

JAMES NICOL SUSPENDED.

Charge Against a Chicago Board of Trade Official.

CHICAGO, July 20.—James Nicol, Vice President of the Board of Trade, was suspended for one year by the directors yesterday. The charge was that of "making and reporting false and fictitious trades."

He was implicated with Melan Bros., who were recently expelled for backstopping operations. Nicol traded for A. O. Hunter personally and asserted that his only connection with the firm was in that capacity.

Dr. George Edelman Dead.

ST. LOUIS, July 20.—Dr. George Edelman, who always asserted that he made the experiments that resulted in the discovery of chloroform, died at